Oklahoma Chess Monthly

MARCH 2018

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

Neil Naputo Sr.

In This Issue:

- OKC Open Report
- OCA Board Member Ousted
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- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

Oklahoma City Open won by Neil Naputo Sr.

As befits his army background, new Okie player *Neil Naputo Sr.* won the 2018 Oklahoma City Open with a combination of skillful and tenacious play on the way to his 4-1 score and $500 first prize.

The event was held February 17-18 at the Wyndham Hotel on Northwest Expressway (formerly called the Crowne Plaza). There were only 40 players.

Veteran player Larry Deputy won the U1700 Reserve Section with a smooth 5-0 score, but had to survive a challenge from 10-year-old Preston Koloen who went 3-0 the first day and was knocking off adults rated 1,000 points higher. His calmness and maturity of play is unusual for his age, and we can expect much more from Koloen in the future.

The venue suffered a catastrophic flood several weeks previously caused by the renovation company accidentally cutting a water pipe. To accommodate their dealing with the repairs

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and schedule changes that resulted, the tournament had to switch rooms after the first round; but everything went off smoothly.

However, several of the leading experts present withdrew early from the event: a couple who suffered setbacks (Ilonze, Johnson), and three more who were feeling ill (Long, Veal, Lofton). This opened the door for other players chasing veteran NM Bill Orton for the $500 first prize. Naputo was on the ropes in the final round vs Orton but managed to come back to win and move his rating up to 2048. Chris Dooley snagged 2nd place with 3½ points. Deputy won $200 in the Reserve, where 2nd place went to Christopher Young.

Notable was the return of Chuck Johnson to tournament play after a year off. He was in Phoenix chasing a dream job at one of the world's finest golf courses, but decided it wasn't for him and returned recently and hopefully will resume his active tourney play.

Crosstables page 4. See "Game of the Month" for a key game from this event, Naputo-Hodgden.

More games next month in OCM.

Rd 2: Naputo vs C. Ilonze, Chuck Johnson vs J. Veal

Expert David Phillips went a strong 3-0 on day one but lost to Orton in Rd 4.

Preston Koloen

Two great veterans: Les Kline vs. Larry Deputy.

Profile: Neil Naputo Sr.

by Ace Chess Reporter Victor Yaward

Neil Naputo is originally from Hawaii. He is on active duty stationed at Fort Sill, which now makes him an Okie. His rank is Staff Sergeant (E6) Promotable, meaning he'll be an E7 soon.

As a young Sergeant (E5) stationed at Camp Eagle, Korea, Naputo was selected in 2005 for the All Army Championship. This by itself is extremely significant because he was unrated at the time and only the top 12 Army chess players are given this opportunity and few, save his chess opponents in Korea, were aware of his skill level. At that time, there was no rated chess in Korea. Sergeant Naputo honed his skills in the barracks and at the recreation centers when he was off duty.

Naputo (right) vs. NM Bill Orton, final round.

Chief Tournament Director Ronald P. Broad reviewed Sergeant Naputo's packet and noted the Soldier's extensive activity and results, including winning the 2d Infantry Division and 8th Army Chess Championships. All achievements were easy to verify by checking with the Recreation Center directors in Korea. Ron Broad decided to take a gamble meaning someone else, with an established chess history, would sit out the 2005 Army Championship to make room.

Even with all this, there was one more important hurdle to overcome. Duty in the Republic of Korea is fast paced and the mission is to be Freedom's first line of defense. All Soldiers, especially Non Commissioned Officers, are crucial for success and only a small number are allowed to be absent at any given time. He needed his Commanding Officer's permission.

Neil Naputo is obviously a strong chess player. However, he is a warrior first, competent in his profession, and leads by example. Universally trusted by every member of his unit. His Commanding Officer made the decision:

"Approved! Make us proud!"

Sergeant Naputo did not disappoint in the 2005 Army Chess Championship. He made the Army Chess Team and went on play in the Armed Forces Chess Championship. His subsequent military assignments (such as the Global War on Terrorism in Iraq) and budget constraints combined to limit his playing opportunities. However, he's no longer an unknown. He's the Champion of the 2018 Oklahoma City open. RRSO XVI organizers eagerly recruited him for the Oklahoma Chess Team. And Chris Wood, Texas Chess Team Captain, is struggling to find someone who can keep pace with him in Davis on April 21st.

OKLAHOMA CITY OPEN • Open Section

February 17-18 2018 • OKC Wyndham Hotel

5-SS • G/90;+30 • TDs: Tom Braunlich, Jim Berry, Phil Stegall

Pair Num	Player Name / USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	NEIL NAPUTO SR	4.0	W 8	L 9	W 2	W 10	W 3
OK	/ R: 1994 ->2048						
2	CHRISTOPHER DOOLEY	3.5	D 3	W 15	L 1	W 14	W 4
OK	/ R: 1913 ->1950						
3	WILLIAM R ORTON III	3.0	D 2	W 11	D 7	W 4	L 1
AR	/ R: 2200 ->2200						
4	DAVID PHILLIPS	3.0	W 14	W 10	W 9	L 3	L 2
TX	/ R: 2022 ->2028						
5	BLAKE TANNER	3.0	W 15	L 6	L 14	W 12	W 10
AR	/ R: 1931 ->1933						
6	JAMES LONG	2.5	W 13	W 5	H	U	U
OK	/ R: 2036 ->2049						
7	JOE DEAN VEAL	2.5	W 17	W 16	D 3	U	U
OK	/ R: 1982 ->2005						
8	LUKE M TRAN	2.5	L 1	D 12	D 15	D 13	W 14
KS	/ R: 1636 ->1681						
9	CHIBUZO C ILONZE	2.0	W 11	W 1	L 4	U	U
OK	/ R: 2135 ->2133						
10	PAUL HODGDEN	2.0	W 18	L 4	W 13	L 1	L 5
OK	/ R: 1966 ->1938						
11	ANKITH SHESHAPPA	2.0	L 9	L 3	L 12	W 18	W 17
KS	/ R: 1900 ->1874						
12	GERRY EAST	2.0	L 16	D 8	W 11	L 5	D 13
OK	/ R: 1814 ->1808						
13	MICHAEL WAYNE PARKER	2.0	L 6	W 17	L 10	D 8	D 12
OK	/ R: 1747 ->1735						
14	SAMEETH SHESHAPPA	2.0	L 4	W 18	W 5	L 2	L 8
KS	/ R: 1692 ->1691						
15	JIM BERRY	1.5	L 5	L 2	D 8	W 17	U
OK	/ R: 1889 ->1858						
16	CHUCK JOHNSON	1.0	W 12	L 7	U	U	U
OK	/ R: 2087 ->2077						
17	LIKO IRONHERRON	1.0	L 7	L 13	W 18	L 15	L 11
OK	/ R: 414P15-> 422P20						
18	ZION WRIGHT	1.0	L 10	L 14	L 17	L 11	B
OK	/ R: Unrated-> 101P4						

OKLAHOMA CITY OPEN • Reserve Section

February 17-18 2018 • OKC Wyndham Hotel

5-SS • G/90;+30 • TDs: Tom Braunlich, Jim Berry, Phil Stegall

Pair Num	Player Name / USCF ID / Rtg (Pre->Post)	Total Pts	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1	LARRY M DEPUTY	5.0	W 22	W 19	W 13	W 8	W 3
OK	/ R: 1635 ->1694						
2	CHRISTOPHER JAMES YOUNG	4.0	L 6	W 12	W 16	W 13	W 8
OK	/ R: 1625P5 ->1628P10						
3	LES KLINE	3.5	W 15	W 5	H	W 11	L 1
AR	/ R: 1600 ->1620						
4	JEREMY TUTTLE	3.5	L 5	W 20	W 7	D 10	W 9
OK	/ R: 1614 ->1609						
5	HERBERT F STONEHOCKER IV	3.5	W 4	L 3	D 9	W 14	W 10
OK	/ R: 1413 ->1530						
6	JEREMY L BROWN	3.0	W 2	L 13	W 19	U	W 15
OK	/ R: 1421 ->1498						
7	KERSI BHARUCHA	3.0	W 9	L 8	L 4	W 20	W 16
OK	/ R: 1254 ->1288						
8	PRESTON KOLOEN	3.0	B	W 7	W 14	L 1	L 2
OK	/ R: 597P9 -> 812P13						
9	DAN BREITENBERG	2.5	L 7	W 18	D 5	W 12	L 4
AR	/ R: 1581 ->1546						
10	MAXWELL BARNES	2.5	W 16	L 11	W 17	D 4	L 5
OK	/ R: 1507 ->1487						
11	STANLEY M HORTON	2.5	W 18	W 10	H	L 3	U
MO	/ R: 1461 ->1476						
12	ADLEY ELIJAH BUFFORD	2.5	D 14	L 2	W 21	L 9	W 18
OK	/ R: 1423P13->1411P18						
13	SCOTT BAKER	2.0	W 20	W 6	L 1	L 2	U
OK	/ R: 1586 ->1577						
14	WALLACE H MANN	2.0	D 12	W 21	L 8	L 5	H
TX	/ R: 1559 ->1497						
15	ERIC GREEN II	2.0	L 3	L 17	W 20	W 19	L 6
OK	/ R: 1310 ->1312						
16	PHILIP STEGALL	2.0	L 10	W 22	L 2	W 17	L 7
OK	/ R: 1184 ->1220						
17	REX MICHAEL RYCHLIK	2.0	L 19	W 15	L 10	L 16	W 21
OK	/ R: Unrated->1180P5						
18	RICARDO PADRON	1.5	L 11	L 9	H	W 21	L 12
OK	/ R: Unrated->1129P4						
19	STUART BOEHMER	1.0	W 17	L 1	L 6	L 15	L 20
KS	/ R: 1490 ->1413						
20	GABRIEL TEUBNER	1.0	L 13	L 4	L 15	L 7	W 19
OK	/ R: 1287 ->1262						
21	EVELYN MUNOZ	0.5	H	L 14	L 12	L 18	L 17
TX	/ R: 947P4 -> 890P8						
22	JOHN WILLIAMS III	0.0	L 1	L 16	U	U	U
OK	/ R: 1487 ->1441						

OCA Board Member Ousted

by Tom Braunlich, Editor

While the Oklahoma Chess Monthly would rather report on progress in our mission of supporting traditional chess in the region, unfortunately it is inevitable the subject sometimes must turn to report on chess political news at the official state affiliate, the Oklahoma Chess Association (OCA).

On February 19, OCA board member-at-large Shaun Graham-Bowcaster was voted off the OCA board, by a tally of 6-1 with 1 abstention.

At first the shake-up was not announced by the OCA, and was confirmed only by noticing the fact that SGB's name was removed from the OCA website's list of board members.

Asked for an explanation of what occurred, Steve Reid, OCA President, said that there was a statement in the works that would be posted soon on the OCA website. The statement was posted the next afternoon (February 22), and read entirely as follows:

"In accordance with OCA bylaws, Shaun Graham-Bowcaster was removed by a vote of the OCA Board of Directors and no longer serves as an at-large member. The removal was effective as of February 19, 2018."

No explanation of the cause for such an unusual step was offered, which raises the question, "What happened?"

When asked about what the specifics of the allegations were against SGB, Steve Reid did not answer.

However, multiple sources did confirm that the essence of the charge against SGB stemmed from a personality conflict between him and Jim Bedenbaugh, the former OCA president who is still on the board in the "past president" position. Normally such conflicts are very common on volunteer groups like the OCA, and as such usually are not considered serious enough to warrant a removal of a member. The bylaws state that such a removal has to be for "good cause" which is a term usually thought of as meaning a serious infraction of some kind.

However, apparently this particular conflict boiled over. One source said, "Frankly, I was disgusted by the situation. The board was not working on chess but instead seemed to be working on fighting between members." At some point, in SGB's own words, this led to him "cursing out" the past president.

One might sometimes expect to encounter cussing between board members in their discussions, but a different source said it "went way beyond what any rational person may deem" as acceptable.

The board called a motion to remove SGB. The vote was 6-1-1 with one abstention (by Joe Veal, long-time friend of Shaun's) and the nay vote was Shaun himself.

Technically the bylaws required a 30-day period followed by a hearing, but Shaun waived this right, and the removal thus was passed immediately.

No one seems willing to confirm what the official allegation was that was charged. Presumably such info would be in the meeting minutes, except the OCA seldom publishes its meeting minutes (although this is required in its bylaws), so the official specifics may never be known — but the gist of it is as above.

The context behind the out-of-bounds language does not appear to involve specific allegations of impropriety about actual OCA business for any member, but apparently is interpersonal in nature — involving attitudes, perceived intransigence, and politics. It isn't relevant to recount that here in the OCM.

This removal of an OCA board member appears to be the first time this has ever happened in the OCA.

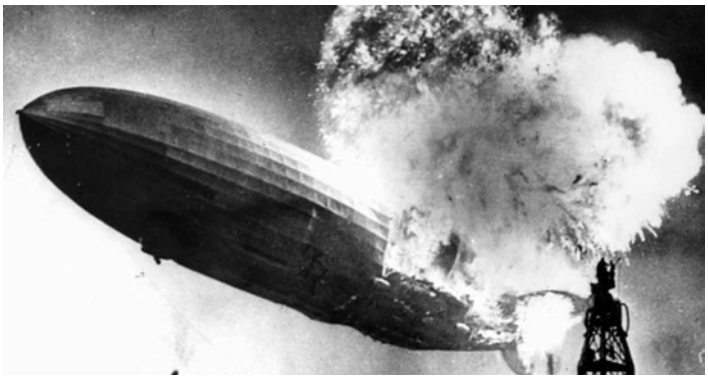
The OCA has a players meeting at their annual tournament in June. The next one is due to be in the OKC area, but has yet to be announced.

Chess and Zeppelins

by Tom Braunlich

Most people are familiar with the famous fiery crash of the German "zeppelin" airship "Hindenberg" in 1937, captured on film and radio and the subject of movies and conspiracy theories during the Nazi lead up to World War II.

The German zeppelin "Hindenberg" flying over New York City (above) in 1937, and later that same day its explosion and crash at the landing field in New Jersey (below).



But what is less well known is that the German airship program had been going on for decades, since before World War I, and one of its early leaders was a well known chess master from Berlin who had beaten world champion Emanuel Lasker in 1912 — but who, less than a year later, died in another deadly Zeppelin crash.

Max Behnisch was a captain in the German Navy for 15 years when he was called upon to be the chief of their new division of Aviation. The son of an engineer with experience in shipbuilding, he was a logical choice. He was also a celebrated chess master, although he stayed an amateur due to his duties in the Navy. Some players of that day believed he might have reached high levels as a chess player had he devoted himself to it.

Captain Max Behnisch, amateur chess master, and head of the early German zeppelin development program in 1913.

Just 10 years after the Wright Brothers' airplane flew in 1903, armies around the world were racing to develop military applications for aircraft, especially in the U.S. and Europe. By 1913 the Wright Brothers' flyer was not yet robust enough to carry bombs so many countries also had a program to develop "rigid airships" called zeppelins or dirigibles. Basically they were huge balloons of hydrogen gas packed inside a rigid metal structure, and covered with an airworthy canvas skin. The crew inhabited gondolas slung below the frame, which could also carry cargo (bombs), and the whole thing moved with motors and propellers also hung below the frame. They were like huge ships in the air, what the German's called *Lufttschiffs* ("air-ships").

In late 1912 Captain Behnisch had defeated world champion Emanuel Lasker, using a rare gambit in the Center Counter Defense now called the Icelandic Gambit. Masters nowadays decline this gambit but Lasker accepted, and lost. Here is the game, with notes by Isodor Gunsberg, as printed in the American Chess Bulletin, vol 11 (see next page).

Behnisch seldom got the chance to play in tournaments, due to his duties, especially as he began work later in 1913 as the leader of the aviation program.

COUNTER CENTRE DEFENSE.

E. Lasker White	M. Behnisch Black	E. Lasker White	M. Behnisch Black
1 P—K4	P—Q4	17 Kt—K4	Q—Q5
2 PxP	KKt—B3	18 QR—Kt	P—QR4
3 P—QB4(a)	P—B3	19 R—B4	P—B4
4 PxP	KtxP	20 Q—Kt3(d)	B—K3
5 QKt—B3	P—K4	21 Kt—Kt5	QxR
6 P—Q3	B—QB4	22 KtxB	Q—K4
7 B—K3	Kt—Q5	23 KtxR	QxB
8 Kt—B3	Kt—Kt5(b)	24 Kt—Q7	B—K8(e)
9 BxKt	PxB	25 P—B5ch	K—R
10 Kt—K4	B—Kt5ch	26 P—KR3	Q—B8ch
11 Kt(B3)—Q2	Castles	27 K—R2	P—B5
12 B—K2	Kt—K6(c)	28 RxB	QxR
13 PxKt	PxP	29 P—Q4(f)	Q—Kt6ch
14 Castles	PxKt	30 QxQ	PxQch
15 KtxP	Q—Q5ch	31 KxP	R—Q
16 K—R	QxKtP	Resigns	

NOTES BY ISIDOR GUNSBERG.

(a) This attempt to save the pawn seldom results favorably, as White suffers in development, and Black obtains full compensation for the pawn by rapidly getting all his pieces into play and retarding White's QP.

(b) Excellent play. If now 9. P—KR5, then KtxKt ch; 10. QxKt, KtxB; 11. PxKt, Q—Kt3 with advantage.

(c) Played in rattling style throughout, although the gain is merely one of position, as Black obtains the open queen's file and an open diagonal for checking should White castle.

(d) Preventing PxKt, for then White would recover the piece by 21 P—B5 ch, compelling Black's reply of B—K3.

(e) R—Q looks a good move here, but Black was ambitious and wanted to force a mate.

(f) His only way to save the knight. If 29 QxP, Black's reply would have been R—K with a mating threat.

Captain Behnisch's win over world champion Emanuel Lasker, published with notes in the American Chess Bulletin, 1912.

The Crash of the L2

In September of 1913 his team was working on the "L2", their second large Zeppelin design. It was envisioned to be a bomber that would have enough range and speed to be able to fly from Germany to London, drop its bombs, and return home. The L2 was huge, as long as the ocean-going battleships of the day (nearly two football fields long). It had a crew of 15 onboard, could carry over 11 tons of bombs or other cargo, and could fly nearly 50 miles an hour.

The ill-fated zeppelin "L2"

Despite such impressive capabilities, these designs were in their infancy, and the engineers were still learning what methods worked best for controlling them, and particularly they were learning how to safely handle the dangerously flammable hydrogen gas that has the lifting power to float them in the air. The work was very experimental and quite unsafe. The previous ship, L1, had a fatal crash just the month before. There were 10 crashes in the first seven years of their program.

The L2 successfully completed a distance trial flight of 438 miles from its home airport of Friedrichstaffen to the southern German town of Johannistal in September.

On October 17 Captain Behnisch came aboard to observe personally an important "altitude test" flight, to see how high it could go. Previous zeppelins had often been wrecked by strong winds and storms, and the ability to get above a squall was something needed for a ship of this kind.

As often happens in aviation, a small series of minor unexpected events or design flaws combined to create a tragedy that day. According to Douglas Robinson's 1973

book *The Zeppelin in Combat*, the L2 zeppelin was removed from its shed that morning but delayed in takeoff because one engine wouldn't start. Sitting in the morning sun for two hours the hydrogen gas became heated, which of course causes it to expand.

The L2 emerging from its hangar, with onlookers.

The engineers had allowed for this with vents to bleed off excess gas, but unfortunately these vents were located on the underside of the zeppelin (later designs provided a chimney to release the gas on top).

When the airship was launched, it started rising very rapidly to 610 meters (2,000 ft.). Some of the vented hydrogen gas got too close to the ship's motors. It was sucked in. There was a spark as a flame leaped forward out of the engine car toward the cloud of vented gas and up into the structure, causing a tremendous explosion of some of the gasbags. The wounded airship began to slowly plunge toward the ground, but soon after a second explosion occurred and it nosedived straight down from about 1,000 feet, as shown in this photo.

Photo capturing the L2's tragic nosedive into the ground from 1,000 feet altitude.

All 28 people aboard were killed, including Captain Behnisch.

TOP 25

For MARCH 2018

Top 25 Active Oklahoma Players				
	Player	This Month	Change +/-	
1	Advait Patel	2580	-22	
2	Howard Zhong	2280	0	
3	Daniel Ng	2273	0	
4	Mark Hulsey	2221	0	
5	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
6	Tom Amburn	2200	0	
7	Sergey Galant	2188	0	
8	Joshua Alexander	2142	0	
9	Chibuzo C Ilonze	2133	-2	
10	Anthony Paolercio	2112	0	
11	Logan Zachare	2107	35	▲
12	Adonis Turner	2103	30	▲
13	John Cope	2084	0	▼
14	Chuck Johnson	2077	-10	▼
15	James Tyner	2074	0	▼
16	David Luscomb	2068	0	
17	Charles D Unruh	2062	0	
18	Tom Patton	2060	0	
19	James Long	2049	13	▲
20	Neil Naputo Sr	2048	54	▲
21	Matt Dalthorp	2045	0	▼
22	Michael Nugent	2039	0	▼
23	Charles M Unruh	2039	0	▼
24	Veronika Zilajeva	2039	8	▼
25	Alan Islas	2024	0	▼

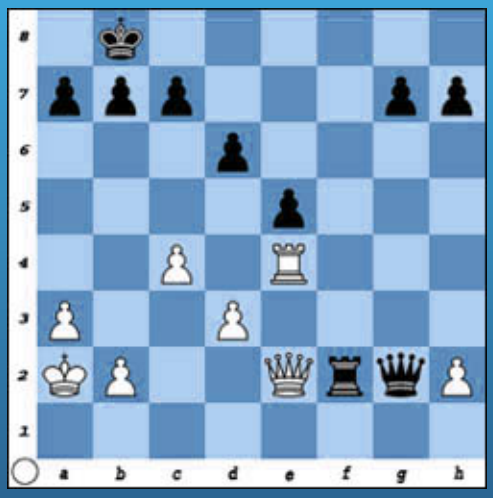
Players of the Month

ADONIS TURNER, LOGAN ZACHARE

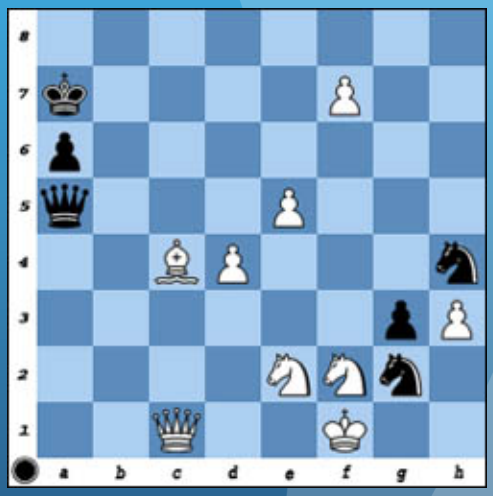
Both of these young experts have been "hot" and crossed the 2100-mark this month.

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page



White to move and win. (Easy)



Black to move and win. (Medium)

Like the Hindenberg many years later, the wreckage of L2 was a tangled heap of metal girders.

The tangled wreckage of the zeppelin L2.

The accident made news around the world. All the European imperial royalty attended the funeral procession held for the crew.

And in Berlin, chess players mourned the passing of a popular local chess hero.

Germany continued its zeppelin program. During World War I (1915-1918) they were used mainly for recognizance missions. But a few bombing missions carried out by zeppelins (from high altitude, because they were so vulnerable to fire from the ground) captured the public imagination. However, they were actually very ineffectual.

The rapid development of bi-plane fighters in World War I soon made it clear that zeppelins were too fragile for military service. The program morphed into a passenger ship system, with huge luxurious airliners built in the 1920s and 1930s that eventually were able to fly across the Atlantic ocean. These liners had passenger space built into the structure of the ship, not slung beneath as in early zeppelin designs.

At the time the airships were thought to be a wave of the future — until the spectacular mysterious crash of the *Hindenberg* in 1937 destroyed the public's trust of the technology and showed that hydrogen was just too dangerous to use. These zeppelin passenger liners became a thing of the past, as did the memory of Captain Behnisch.

Photos here are from http://www.zeppelin-luftschiff.com

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) White can take advantage of the various pins in the position, plus black's weak back rank, with the shocking 1. Rf4!! Now if 1…exf4, 2. Qe8 mate. Or 1…Rxe2 2. Rf8mate. Finally if 1…Rxf4 white gets the queen with 2. Qxg2.

(2) Black is saved by his deadly knights. First black sacrifices his queen to block white's king escape to the queenside with 1…Qe1+!! After 2. Qxe1 it is a sweet smothered mate with 2…Ne3+ 3. Kg1, Nf3+ 4. Kh1, g2 mate.

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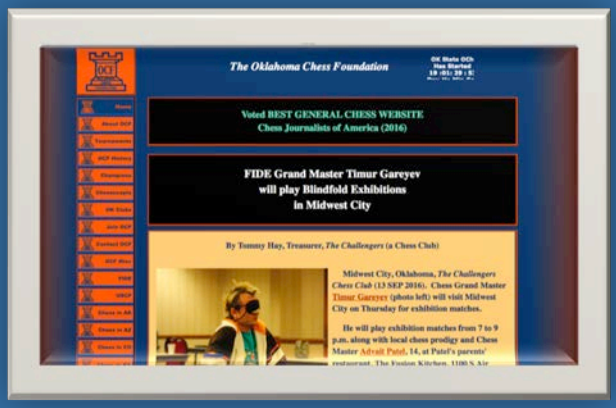
The Oklahoma Chess Foundation
Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS WEBSITE
Chess Journalists of America (2016)
FIDE Grand Master Timur Gareyev
will play Blindfold Exhibitions
in Midwest City

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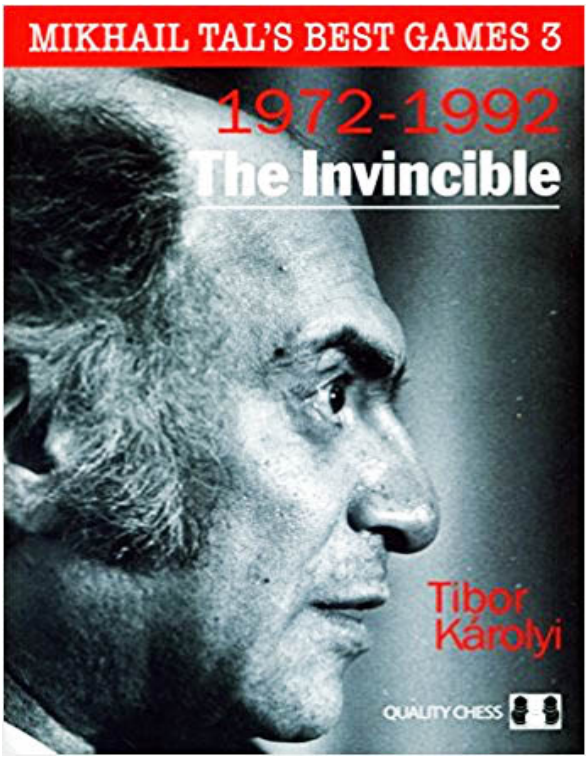
Mikhail Tal's Best Games 3: The Invincible

REVIEW BY IM JOHN DONALDSON

The aptly named Scottish firm Quality Chess *(www.qualitychess.co.uk)* has been the premier publisher of high-level chess books for over a decade. Since its debut in 2004 it has consistently produced outstanding works aimed at players rated 2000 on up, with many titles suitable for grandmasters. Its most recent offerings show the company is maintaining its commitment to excellence.

Hungarian International Master Tibor Karolyi has made a reputation for himself as one of the world's best and prolific authors in the game collections/biographies category. The list of players he has written about is a who's who of chess including Alexander Beliavsky, Nona Gaprindashvili, Vlastimil Hort, Anatoly Karpov, Garry Kasparov, Judit Polgar, Lajos Portisch Yasser Seirawan, Jan Timman and Eugenio Torre. His most recent subject is the eighth World Champion (1960-61), Mikhail Tal.

Though Tal only wore the crown for a short time, his crowd pleasing style and friendly personality have led to him being remembered as one of the most likeable of the World



Champions. Not surprisingly, among Caissa's titans, only Bobby Fischer and Garry Kasparov have had more books written on them.

Tal wrote two of the greatest books of chess ever written which belong in every chess player's library, *Tal-Botvinnik 1960* and *The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal.* You can't do better than this, but anyone who is a real Tal fan (and who isn't) will want to rush out and pick up all three volumes of Karolyi's homage to the great Tal. Coming to over 1300 pages they are the definitive guides to his career.

The third, and arguably most important volume in the trilogy, *Mikhail Tal's Best Games 3: The Invincible* (539 pages, $29.95), covers the years 1972 to 1992. The title references Tal's two lengthy undefeated streaks of 95 and 86 games in the early 1970s. One might think a player with Tal's reputation as a hyper-aggressive attacking madman would preclude such streaks, but as Karolyi explains Tal was a much more knowledgeable player in the 1970s than when World Champion. The tactical brilliance which won him so many fans was still there, but reinforced by a greater understanding of

(Continued Page 14)

Naputo, Neil (1994)
Hodgden, Paul (1966) [C29]
OKC Open 2018 (4.2), 18.02.2018
[TB]

This game shows the fighting tenacity of new Okie Neil Naputo Sr., an army sergeant now stationed at Ft. Sill. Caught out in the opening, he chooses to give up a pawn and fight on in a tactical ending rather than hunker down in a joyless middlegame defense. Is this an army trait?

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 d5 4.fxe5 Nxe4 5.Nxe4?

[Although this move has been played before by such Grandmasters as Marshal, it scores poorly as it leaves white with a weak e5 pawn. More common is either 5. d3 or 5.Nf3 A recent top GM game went: 5...Bc5 6.Qe2!? *(6.d4 Bb4=)* 6...Bf5 7.Nd1 Nc6 8.d3 Qe7 9.Ne3 Be6!? 10.c3 0-0-0 11.d4 Bb6 12.Qc2 g5 13.g3 f6 14.exf6 Qxf6 15.Bg2 g4 16.Nh4 Bxd4 17.Rf1 Qe5 18.cxd4 Nxd4 19.Qa4 Kb8 20.Bxe4 Bd7 21.Qa5 Qxe4 22.Rf4 Qh1+ 23.Kf2 Nf3 24.Nxg4 b6 25.Qc3 Nxh4 26.gxh4 Bxg4 27.Be3 Qxh2+ 0-1 Jobava,B (2695)-Mamedyarov,S (2757)/Warsaw 2013]

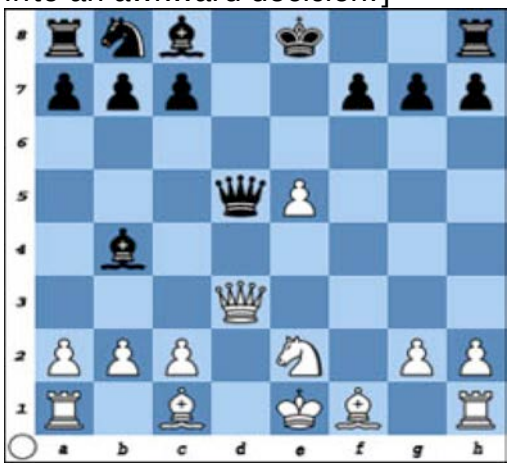
5...dxe4 6.Ne2?

Awkward. White needs to anticipate and play 6.d4 with the intention of gambiting the weak e5 pawn after, for example, 6...exd3 7.Bxd3 Nc6 8.Nf3 Bg4 9.0ñ0 A recent game went 9...Bc5+ 10.Kh1 Nd4? *(10...Qd5)* 11.Be3 Ne6 12.Qe1 0ñ0 13.Ng5 Nxg5 14.Bxc5 with advantage to white in Godoy Olazabal,A (2141)-Krysa,L (2411)/Buenos Aires 2013.

I think Naputo had something similar in mind but overlooked black's 8th move.

6...Qd5 7.d4 exd3 8.Qxd3 Bb4+!

[8...Qxe5 white was counting on a development gambit for the pawn, but now he is forced into an awkward decision.]



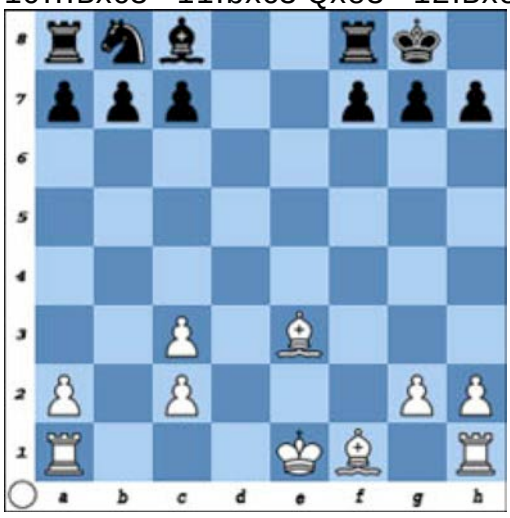
9.Nc3!?

[White gets little to nothing for the pawn after 9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 Qxe5 11.0-0-0 Nc6 12.Re1 0-0]

9...Qxe5+ 10.Qe3!?

Sergeant Naputo interestingly chooses a tactical ending rather than a middlegame with no compensation for the pawn -- even though his pawns will be shattered and the queens come off also.

10...Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 Qxe3+ 12.Bxe3 0-0



I think most experts would say black has a practically won game here. White is down a pawn, and his queenside pawns are also doubled and weak. And indeed you would expect a GM to win this. But it isn't so easy. White has vague compensation with two bishops on an open board, and four open files for his rooks to play on. In fact, my computer only gives a slight edge (-0.4) to black.

13.0-0-0 Be6 14.Kb2 Nd7!?

It's funny. This natural looking move actually creates conditions for white to complicate the game, which is what he is looking for. And yet it is hard to find anything better to suggest, because black's problem is his knight lacks a stable outpost square to occupy. c4 would be a good square in theory, which he could reach via b6 or e5. But the problem is from black's point of view if he ever plays ...Nc4 white can just take it and create a drawish-looking opposite bishops ending. [Maybe best was a waiting move like 14...Re8]

15.Bc4!

A fighting move that is unpleasant for black to face!

15...Bg4

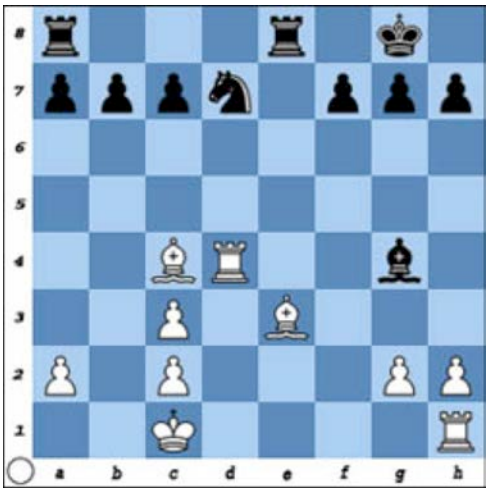
Best was allowing his kingside to be weakened to break white's initiative by 15...Rad8 16.Bb3 Nf6 17.Bf4 c6 18.Bg5 No doubt Paul was not sure he could win that ending and thus he enters into more complications... 18...h6 19.Bxf6 gxf6; Of course, after 15...Bxc4 16.Rxd7 Rac8 17.Bf4 white's drawing chances would be good due to the opposite bishops and active rooks.

16.Rd4!

Attacking the bishop that is protecting the knight and keeping on the pressure.

16...Rfe8?

[16...Ne5 17.Bf4 Nxc4+ 18.Rxc4 again with the opposite bishops was not appealing to Paul, who of course was trying to win, but actually this appears to be the best chance, as in this case at least he diffuses white's tactics and activates his pieces after for example 18...c6 19.Bd6 Rfd8 20.Bc7 Rd7]



17.Rf1!

With pieces hanging all over, Naputo calmly attacks a pawn! No doubt Paul overlooked the strength of this shot, expecting only 17.Rxg4 Rxe3 18.Rf1 Ne5 and the knight has found a stable home on e5 and black is winning. (No opposite bishops).

17...Ne5

[17...Rxe3 18.Bxf7+ Kh8 19.Rxg4= is a draw that black had to avoid, but now...]

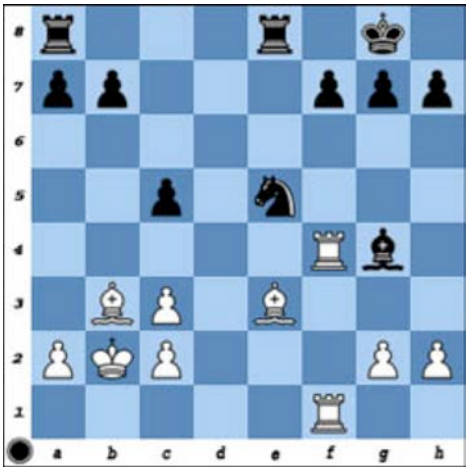
18.Bb3!?

[Playing for a win, but also playing with fire! Naputo declines to force an easy draw with 18.Rxg4 Nxg4 19.Bxf7+ Kh8 20.Bxe8 Rxe8 21.Bf4=]

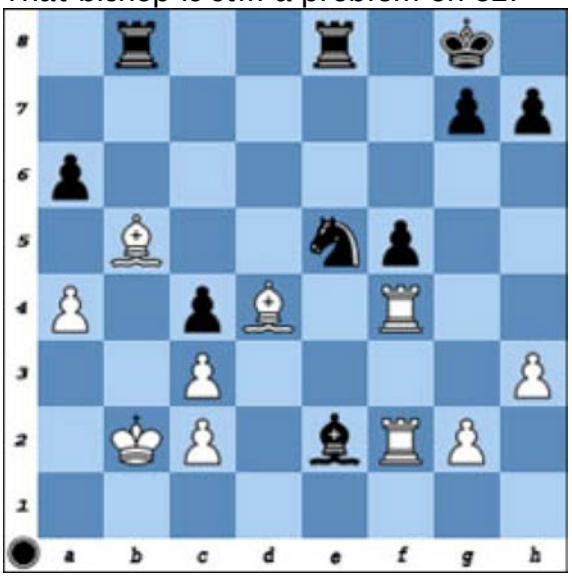
18...c5?

Both sides are playing for the win. Black could have consolidated with 18...Be6 19.Bf4 Nc6 20.Rd2 Rac8 21.Ba4 but this didn't look easy to win, so black continues to leave pieces hanging in an effort to complicate. But it is going too far.

19.Rdf4?



Naputo can actually win a pawn back and keep a small edge with 19.Rxg4! c4 *(19...Nxg4 20.Bxf7+ Kh8 21.Bxe8 Rxe8 22.Bxc5 Nxh2 23.Rf7)* 20.Bxc4 Nxc4+ 21.Rxc4 Rxe3 22.Rc7
Maybe he wasn't satisfied with that and thought this would be stronger. But he must have overlooked something as it allows Paul to regain the edge, and this time it is a winning edge...
19...c4! 20.Ba4 [20.Bxc4 Nxc4+ 21.Rxc4 Be2!]
20...b5!
Maybe this is what Naputo overlooked. Black is winning material now, but white doesn't give up...
21.Bxb5 Rab8 22.a4 a6 23.Bd4
Black's awkward pieces in the center are still an issue.
23...f5 24.h3 Be2 25.R1f2
That bishop is still a problem on e2!



25...axb5 26.Rxf5 [26.Rxe2 Nd3+!]
26...bxa4+ 27.Ka3 Nc6
Just in time the knight retreats and reveals protection for the bishop, and white is left a piece down. But Naputo is still looking to find an unexpected swindle -- after all, all the ingredients are there -- awkward unprotected black pieces on c6 and e2, plus rooks frozen to the back rank to prevent back rank mates on f8 after:
28.Bc5! Ra8
[The computer also likes this greedy move defending the pawn, but simpler is to eliminate back rank risks with the simple 28...h6 29.Kxa4 Bd1 threatening ...Re5.]
29.Rf7 Bh5 30.Rc7 Rec8 31.Rd7 Rd8 32.Rc7 Rac8 33.Rb7 Rd5? 34.Rc7! Na7??
In time trouble and after a long tactical defense, black was about to finally consolidate the extra piece. But Naputo's stubborn counterplay is finally rewarded with a counterblow black overlooked... [34...Rdd8 35.Rb7 would have instead repeated the position and now black could continue with 35...h6]
35.Rxc8+ Nxc8 36.Rf8# 1-0

BOOK REVIEW – Continued …

the game which caused him to temper some of his more audacious gambles.

The *Life and Games of Mikhail Tal* ends in 1975 so *The Invincible* is especially important in covering the last part of Tal's career which included a tie for first with Karpov at Montreal 1979 and winning the winning the World Blitz Championship in 1988 ahead of Kasparov and Karpov.

All three volumes in this series feature well-annotated games, overviews of all the tournaments Tal played in, plenty of biographical material, tournament results and a number on indexes. The only thing one could possibly ask for is a few more photographs of Tal (the ones that appear in the series are crisp, high quality black and white photos).

All three volumes in the Mikhail Tal's Best Game series are, like all Quality Chess titles, attractively laid out and published on good quality paper, and priced at $29.95 per book, a very good value. This is especially true of the 541-page paperback *Mikhail Tal's Best Games 3: The Invincible,* which is a steal at that price. All three volumes are also available in hardback editions for a little more. I give this series my highest recommendation.

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

For More Tournament Info Visit the USCF Tournament Site:
www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php

MAR 3, 2018 FOUR STATES WINTER OPEN Joplin, MO

4-SS, G/60 d5. Hilton Garden Inn, 2644 E. 32nd St., Joplin, MO 64804. 2 Sections, Open: $120-80, U1600 60, U1400: $60-40. 4.0 Bonus: $20. Prizes: b/30 EF: $30 by 3/2, $40 at door. Scholastic (rating only) $15 by 3/2, $25 at door. MCA mem required, OSA Reg.: 8-9. Rounds: 9:30-11:45-2:30-4:45. Byes: One 1/2-point bye if requ before rd 2 Ent: martin.stahl@joplinchess.org with cash onsite, paypal.me/joplinchess or mailed to Joplin Chess Club, 2609 New Hampshire, Joplin, MO 64804. Checks payable to Martin Stahl. Information: joplinchess.org, martin.stahl@joplinchess.org, 417-483-1554.

MAR 23-25, 2018 22nd MID-AMERICA OPEN St. Louis, MO

5-SS, 40/100, SD/30d10 (2-day option). Clayton Plaza Hotel St. Louis-Clayton, 7750 Carondelet Ave, St. Louis, MO (I-64 W/US 40-W, Exit 32B, 1.2 miles north on Hanley Rd). Prizes $20,000 (G) in six sections. MORE INFO: http://www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php?STATE=MO Questions: DirectorAtChess.US, chesstour.com, chesstour.info,

MAR 24-25, 2018 ARKANSAS OPEN **Fayetteville, AR**

5-SS, G/90,+30. Mt. Sequoyah Reread Center, 150 N. Skyline Dr, Fayetteville, AR. (479)443-4531. Cottage cabins available. **EF**: Open $40 by 3/23; $50 at site; Reserve (U1600): $30 by 3/23; $35 at site. **$$Prizes** (b/40): Open: $225-125; U1800 $125; Reserve: $150-75: U1400: $100; U1000: $50, Upset $50. **Info:** cl_kline@sbcglobal.net (479)595-5720

APR 21, 2018 RRSO XVI (Red River Shootout) Davis, OK

"The annual team match between the most fanatical chess players in Oklahoma and Texas!" Team members will play 2 games with the same opponent. An effort is made to pair players of about the same rating. Rounds: 10:00am and 1:00pm, Time Control G/60;+30, EF: $5 at door. Prizes: Bragging rights. Location: Treasure Valley Casino, I-35 and Hwy 7 (Exit 55 off I-35), Davis, OK (580) 369-3223. Hotel Rooms available. Handicap accessible. Free WiFi. Eligibility: Open to OK and TX players who are current USCF members. Team Roster Selection: To get on the team you must register early with your state team captain by April 1, 2018. (See contact info below). Captains will work with the Chief TD to create the matchups and announce the pairings soon after the April 1 deadline. Players not on the team may come and play a side tournament, the Murray County Championship, with each other and be available as a sub. Your best chance to get on the team is to register early.

OK CAPTAIN: Joe Veal culjoe2012@yahoo.com
TD: Jim Hollingsworth: texaschessteam@yahoo.com
TX CAPTAIN: Chris Wood chris@handsomeweb.com
MORE INFO: http://www.ocfchess.org/ocf_tournaments.html

May 18, 2018 GRANDMASTER GAREYEV BLINDFOLD EXHIBITION Tulsa, OK

6:30pm, Friday May 18, Wyndham Hotel Tulsa, just west of 41st and Garnett. Spectators welcome. No fee to attend, but recommended donation to the OCF tournament fund at the door.

GM Gareyev set a world record last year for simultaneous blindfold play. For us he will give a lecture about how to play blindfold chess yourself and why you should, and then give a simultaneous exhibition against seven pre-selected players. He will stay to play in the FKB Memorial the following day…

May 19-20, 2018 2nd FRANK K BERRY MEMORIAL Tulsa, OK

5-SS; G/90+30. Wyndham Hotel, 10918 E. 41st St., Tulsa, OK. 918-627-5000. HR: $79. Two Sections: Open and Reserve (U1600). EF: $40 if mailed by 5/15, $50 thereafter, FREE for Masters 2200+ (deducted from winnings). Free OCF. Prizes $$2600 (1st Prize Gtd. each section, rest b/65 paid entries) Open: $1,000(G)-250, X: 200, A: 200, B: 200. Reserve (U1600): $250(G)-100, D: 200, U1200/UNR: 200. Reg.: 9-9:45am Sat 5/19. Byes: One ½-pt bye Rds. 1-5 if commit before Sat 9pm. Rds.: (5/19) 10-2:30-7, (5/20) 9-1:15. Entries to: Tom Braunlich, 7500 S. Birch, Broken Arrow, OK 74011. Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net Web: www.ocfchess.org